

REMARKS

Claims 12-14, 16-19 and 21-29 are pending in this application. Claims 16-18 and 21-29 have been withdrawn by the Examiner, but should be rejoined and allowed when independent claim 12 is allowed. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended. Support for the amendments to claim 12 can be found, for example, Figs. 5 and 6, and page 15, lines 18-26 of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the references cited in the March 17, 2009 Information Disclosure Statement and return to Applicant's undersigned representatives a fully initialed Form PTO-1449.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Hinze at the interview held April 17, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 12-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is obviated by the above amendments to claim 12, which clarify that the collar forms part of a supporting case. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 12-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hiraga et al. (Hiraga), U.S. Patent No. 4,970,952, in view of Bengtsson, U.S. Patent No. 4,858,526, and further in view of newly-cited Machinery's Handbook, 26th Edition. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Hiraga, Bengtsson and Machinery's Handbook does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a stamp having a supporting case that is fixed in a main body case, the supporting case having a movable print body disposed therein, wherein

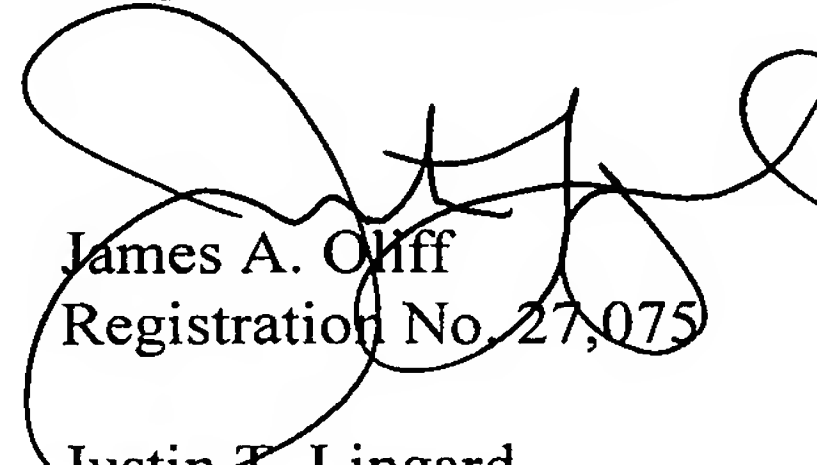
the supporting case has a collar having a plane parallel to a direction perpendicular to the stamping direction..., " as recited in independent claim 12.

As discussed during the interview, the feature allegedly corresponding to the claimed collar in Hiraga is part of the casing 1 (see Fig. 1), which is the outer casing in Hiraga. That is, the alleged collar in Hiraga is not part of supporting case that is fixed in a main body case. Bengtsson and Machinery's Handbook fail to overcome the deficiencies of Hiraga. Therefore, the combination of Hiraga, Bengtsson and Machinery's Handbook does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, a stamp having a supporting case that is fixed in a main body case, the supporting case having a movable print body disposed therein, wherein the supporting case has a collar having a plane parallel to a direction perpendicular to the stamping direction..., " as recited in independent claim 12. Therefore, independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13, 14 and 19 are patentable over the combination of Hiraga, Bengtsson and Machinery's Handbook. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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